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The NC Office on Disability and Health (NCODH) has been organized as a partnership initiative between the Women's and Children's Health Section, Division of Public Health and the FPG Child Development Institute at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill since 1994. NCODH's mission is to promote the health and wellness of persons with disabilities and eliminate health disparities between people with and without disabilities in North Carolina. Primary funding is from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The North Carolina Strategic Plan for Health Promotion for Persons with Disabilities: 2003-2008 was developed by the Advisory Committee on Disability and Health (ACDH) and forms the foundation for health promotion for persons with disabilities in North Carolina. As architect of this plan, the Advisory Committee, represents the collaborative relationships the NCODH has established with individuals with disabilities, state agencies and community organizations that provide services and advocacy for persons with disabilities. This plan is the second in a series and builds on the earlier work, the *North Carolina Plan for Prevention of Secondary Conditions Experienced by Persons with Disabilities: 1997-2002*. The Plan will be used to mobilize individuals with disabilities, health providers, and the public-at-large to recognize that persons with disabilities can and do benefit from health promotion opportunities.

Measurable health objectives for the nation are established every decade in a process known as "Healthy People." Healthy People 2010 defines health promotion among persons with disabilities as, "Efforts to create healthy lifestyles and a healthy environment to prevent medical and other secondary conditions, such as teaching people how to address their health care needs and increasing opportunities to participate in usual life activities." The Advisory Committee on Health and Disability endorses a similar definition of health promotion, with an emphasis on increasing access to needed health services and improving community environments for people with disabilities.

After consultation with persons with disabilities and experts in the field of health and wellness for people with disabilities, the Advisory Committee elected to focus the NC Strategic Plan on the following areas: health promotion and wellness, access to health care, information and resources, and data and surveillance. The plan reflects recommendations from the full Advisory Group as well as its workgroups.